

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 22, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 4-9, 12, and 14-15 have been deemed allowable. Claim 1-3, 10-11, 13, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masahiro (JP 86638). Applicants respectfully reconsideration of the rejected claims which have been amended, and request allowance for the following reasons.

Substance of the Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview with the Applicants' Representative on October 13, 2004. In response to the Examiner's current claim rejections, the Representative presented proposed amendments to distinguish the rejected claims from Masahiro. The Examiner, however, did not agree that the amendments placed the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the rejected claims in a different way that was not discussed during the interview. Reconsideration of the application in view of these new amendments is respectfully requested.

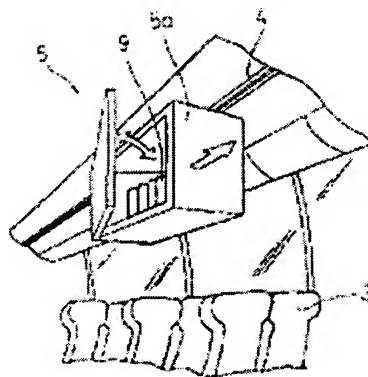
Claims 1-3, 10-11, 13 and 16 Stand Rejected Over the Cited Masahiro Reference

Claims 1-3, 10-11, 13 and 16 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Masahiro. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that the position of the device disclosed in Masahiro could be sandwiched between the driver and

driver's assistant seat. Masahiro, however, fails to disclose all the claimed features recited in amended independent claims 1, 10 and 16. More specifically, Masahiro fails to disclose the claimed installing means or console box for a desired device and said guide means which are *disposed on a floor portion of the mobile body* between the driver and driver's assistant seat.

The Teachings of the Masahiro Reference

In contrast to the recited features, Masahiro discloses a transportation case **5** that transports items **9** along a rail **4** in the ceiling of a bus above passenger seats **3**. In Fig. 5 of Masahiro, the transportation case **5** is clearly illustrated as moving along the rail **4** and including a door that opens and closes. Items **9** are inserted into the transportation case **5**.



Masahiro does not disclose the claimed installing means for a desired device and guide means are disposed between the driver and driver's assistant seat of the bus, and Masahiro does not disclose that the claimed features are disposed on a *floor*

portion of the bus. Masahiro's teaching of the rail 4 being disposed in the ceiling of the bus instead of a floor portion of the bus is directly contrary to the claimed invention of claims 1, 10 and 16. There is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion in Masahiro that the claimed installing means for a desired device and guide means be disposed on a floor portion of the bus.

Amended Independent Claims 1, 10 and 16 Are Patentable Over Masahiro

It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 10 and 16 are patentable over Masahiro. It is also respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to dispose the claimed installing means for a desired device and guide means between the driver and driver's assistant seat on *a floor portion of the mobile body*. If the rail 4 and the transportation case 5 of Masahiro were disposed on a floor portion of the bus, they would have to be disposed in the center aisle where they would create a major obstacle for passengers entering and leaving the bus. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the bus of Masahiro by placing the claimed installing means for a desired device and guide means on *a floor portion of the mobile body* as claimed by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find independent claims 1, 10 and 16, like previously allowed claim independent claim 12, patentable over the cited prior art.

Dependent Claims 2, 3 and 11

Dependent claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and dependent claim 11 depends from claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 3, and 11 are patentable over the Masahiro reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 10.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard J. McGrath (Reg. No. 29,195), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

By: _____

Michael K. Mutter

Michael K. Mutter
Reg. No. 29,680

#39,491

RM
MKM/RJM/kmr
(703) 205-8000
1163-0377P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
703-205-8000